

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
George C. Marshall Space Flight Center
Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812



November 1, 2012

Reply to Attn of: LS01 (AMM)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: LS01/Audrey D. Robinson

SUBJECT: Approval for NASA Attorneys to Attend Speaker's Dinner Sponsored
by the North Alabama Chapter of the Federal Bar Association

This year the North Alabama Chapter (NAC) of the Federal Bar Association (FBA) Fortieth Annual Symposium on Government Acquisition Recent Developments in Government Contracting is scheduled for November 6-8, 2012, at the Huntsville Marriott, Huntsville, AL. The symposium capitalizes on the expertise from renowned private and federal sector attorneys and permits local private and federal sector attorneys and other members of the acquisition community to further develop their technical skills while earning continuing legal and acquisition education credits. This year the event is scheduled for November 7-8, 2012, at the Huntsville Marriott, Huntsville, AL.

On November 7, 2012, the NAC FBA is hosting a Speaker's Dinner at the Watercress Restaurant in the Bridge Street complex in Huntsville. Invitees include NAC FBA officers, symposium speakers, and Chief Counsels from the U. S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Missile Defense Agency, and NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC). The NAC FBA has extended an invitation to the dinner to Audrey D. Robinson, Chief Counsel, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center; Sumara Thompson-King, Deputy Chief Counsel, NASA Headquarters, who is a speaker at the Symposium, and Karen Reilley, Attorney Adviser for Contracts, NASA Headquarters. Patricia Watson, Attorney Adviser for General Law at NASA MSFC will be attending in her capacity as an officer of the NAC FBA. The estimated cost is approximately \$45 per person.

In accordance with 5 C.F.R. 2635.204(g)(3), 14 CFR 1207.103 (c)(4), I have determined that this event will be a widely attended gathering of federal and private sector attorneys, and that it is in the best interest of NASA to permit these NASA attorneys to attend the dinner. The event will provide NASA attorneys an opportunity to network with other federal sector attorneys, as well as private sector attorneys, and to discuss current legal issues pertaining to federal procurement.

Each year, the NAC FBA sponsors the Federal Acquisition Symposium and the Federal Labor Law Symposium. Attorneys from the MSFC's Office of Chief Counsel (OCC) typically attend one or both symposia. Funds for such attendance are approved by the Chief Counsel. The total cost to send attorneys to the symposia is only a small part of OCC's annual training budget.

Likewise, while the NAC FBA relies on attendance fees to sponsor the symposia, it receives other sources of funding and would continue to exist as a professional organization without the attendance of MSFC attorneys at the two symposia.

Because the dinner will be attended by Chief Counsels from other federal agencies and legal experts in the federal procurement profession, I have determined that NASA's interest in these three attorneys participation in the Speakers Dinner outweighs the concern that acceptance of the dinner may improperly influence them in the performance of their official duties. Therefore, these attorneys may attend the dinner.

FBA is not a lobbying organization and is not registered as such under the Lobbying Disclosure Act.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Audrey D. Robinson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Audrey D. Robinson
Chief Counsel